## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 00197 161453Z

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**ACTION SS-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1432

CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 0197

**EXDIS** 

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

**REF: STATE 003943** 

- 1. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF HOW WE HANDLE THE INITIALING AND SIGNING OF OUR TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA. AS OUR OTHER TELEGRAMS HAVE INDICATED, PROGRESS HAS BEEN STEADY AND BARRING SURPRISES I EXPECT THAT WE WILL HAVE BY NEXT WEEK A TEXT WE COULD SIGN. IN OTHER WORDS, WE MAY WELL BE ABLE TO SKIP THE BRACKETED TEXT PHASE ANTICIPATED IN PARA 5 REFTEL.
- 2. TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM EFFECT IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA, AND TO SERVE AS A CLEAR FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NOVEMBER VISIT, I PROPOSE THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO SKIP THE INITIALING STAGE AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT INSTEAD. I REALIZE (PARA 4 REFTEL) THAT ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS MAY BE REQUIRED ONCE AN AGREED TEXT IS OBTAINED BEFORE I AM AUTHORIZED TO SIGN, ALTHOUGH I WONDER ON THE BASIS OF THE VERY SATISFACTORY PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS (STATE 005879) IF THIS WILL REQUIRE MUCH TIME. IN ANY CASE, WHILE SIGNING WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE A VERY FORMAL CEREMONY (WHICH I UNDERSTAND HAS TO BE SAVED FOR WHEN AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE), IT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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AT WHATEVER STAGE IT OCCURS AT LEAST ENTAIL PRESS AND

TV COVERAGE HERE AND A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE U.S.

- 3. THERE IS OF COURSE ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE PRESIDENT WILL REPORT TO CONGRESS THAT HE IS EXERCISING HIS WAIVER AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO ROMANIA AND WHETHER IT IS FELT IN WASHINGTON THAT THIS MUST PRECEDE ANY SIGNING OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT. A RELATED QUESTION IS THAT OF ASSURANCES ON EMIGRATION ON WHICH I AM AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHETHER I SHOULD SEEK ANY FURTHER ASSURANCES HERE.
- 4. AS SEEN FROM BUCHAREST, IT WOULD NOT SEEM NECESSARY THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE WAIVER TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT. (PLEASE CONFIRM LEGAL INTERPRETATION THAT SIGNING AGREEMENT WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE CONCLUDING AGREEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 402.) OUR BASIC CONCERN IT SEEMS TO ME SHOULD BE TO CONVEY A CONTINUING SENSE OF MOTION ON THE MFN QUESTION AND THAT AIM IS BEST SERVED BY GOING AHEAD WITH THE SIGNING AS SOON AS WE CAN ONCE WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A SATISFACTORY TEXT. IT IS OF COURSE NOT NECESSARY TO KEEP THE DELEGATION HERE FOR A SIGNING AND IN ANY CASE IT MAY TAKE THE ROMANIANS THEMSELVES A FEW DAYS TO GET ALL THE NECESSARY APPROVALS FOR SIGNING. FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT, THOUGH, I BELIEVE I OUGHT TO BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- 5. I REALIZE THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH I AM NOT AWARE WHICH WOULD DICTATE A SLOWER PACE. IN ANY EVENT I WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF INITIALING AND SIGNING BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET RAISED THIS MATTER WITH MINISTER NICOLAE AND AT THE RATE THE TALKS ARE GOING SHOULD DO SO VERY SOON. BARNES

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